BCCPAC Board Member Report

Standing Resolution Committee (Curriculum)

On July 09, 2009, this Committee had its initial meeting via teleconference call to provide recommendations on five Resolutions that were passed at the 2009 AGM, and were designated to be under Curriculum.

Resolution #7: Be it resolved that: BCCPAC work with the Ministry of Education and other provincial education associations to change procedures to ensure that results from the Foundation Skills Assessments continue to be released to school districts, schools and parents yet not to the general public in order to stop outside organizations from using/manipulating the data to support their needs.

Recommendations:

1. Check with the Ministry of Education on a regular basis to find out what is in the works to deal with this expressed concern. (MOE is trying to get more information out to counteract the rankings and not restrict the access to the data).
2. This resolution is within the mandate of BCCPAC and has very little power to implement any resolution, but this does not mean we can't lobby.
3. Do research and consultation on Freedom of Information Act, Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) as well as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom. Are there specific exemptions within the Act that are relevant to this resolution, to make this achievable?
4. The government is obliged to release general information like the FSA results to the public and many research agencies, as long as the private data on individual students are kept confidential. Maybe, a hefty fee to release the FSA results can be put in place to deter requests for FSA results. On the other hand, some agencies are willing to pay the hefty fee to have the information for whatever purposes they may serve.
5. Inquire and work with the other partner groups as specified in this Resolution: Ministry of Education, BC School Trustees Association, BC Teachers Federation, BC Principals and Vice Principals Association and BC Superintendents Association.

Resolution #8: Be it resolved that: BCCPAC urge the Ministry of Education to mandate specific review policies to ensure the success of all I.E.P.'s for children with designated needs, regardless of the level of need.

Recommendations:

1. There is a Ministerial Order 150/89 on Special Needs Student Order which "includes adapted materials, instructional and assessment methods required students to meet learning outcomes including Distributed Learning". Please refer to MOE website for complete provisions of the Ministerial Order.

2. The regular review processes are also mandated under this Ministerial Order.
3. This Resolution is more under Special Needs Committee than Curriculum Committee.

Resolution #9b: Be it resolved that The Minister meet with parent and teacher reps to discuss measures to restore confidence in the FSAs.

Recommendations:

1. Research what the real issues are with the teachers. Define teachers' objection to the administration and participation of FSA to Grades 4 and 7. May need a professional mediator.
2. Make sure the teachers teach the curriculum (School Act). For example, some Grades 4 may still be doing Grade 3 curriculum and Grades 7 maybe doing Grade 6 curriculum. What do we want the FSA to do?, rate the teachers? There is a big gap between the school marks and FSA results for certain students.
3. Explain the main benefits of administering FSAs to Grades 4 and 7. Provide year to year data. Changes and adjustment to the curriculum maybe necessary.
4. Put together a package for PAC, for parents of Grades 4 and 7 students. Include links to number of sites for added information. This can be put on the agenda when BCCPAC President meets with the Minister of Education.

Resolution #11: Be it resolved that: BCCPAC develop and distribute a parent information kit that explains the strengths and limitations of FSAs in providing accountability at the level of individual students, teachers, schools, districts and for the system as a whole. Further, that BCCPAC consult with its membership and other education partners in the development of such a kit.

Recommendations:

1. BCCPAC strike a Committee (maybe with PIRCs graduates) to disseminate information to all parents, to educate parents about FSA and make informed decision. Kit can be done on a multi level (email to go to parents and send something home with students for the parents). Keep all information simple and easy to understand, must be politically neutral, ESL friendly, and again provide links for supplemental information. The members of this Committee are more than happy and eager to work on this kit, under the leadership of John Puddifoot (SD 39 – Vancouver).

Resolution #12 : Be it resolved that: BCCPAC call upon the Ministry of Education to work with the Ministry of Health in order to provide age-appropriate, up–to-date, and medically accurate learning resources in multiple languages to support the learning outcomes for intermediate grades in Health & Career Education K – 7 pertaining to HIV / AIDS.

Recommendations:

1. The Committee may need to contact the author of the Resolution to clarify the confusion of "age- appropriate" between intermediate grades which is Grade 4 and K-7,

"to support the learning outcomes in Health & Career Education". (Author maybe on vacation at this time but will follow – up).

2. To add the BC Teachers Federation as a destination. Teachers must be made aware of this Resolution to prepare them to teach this subject content and may need extra training on how to teach the ESL student population.
3. Check if this topic will be included in the Comprehensive School Health Education Program.
4. That the Ministry of Education(work with Curriculum Planners), Ministry of Health (work with policy makers) and BC Teachers Federation look at strategies from other countries (for example, USA, India, China, Armenia, Nigeria, Central America, Bangkok, etc.) on how this subject content has been integrated in the school curriculum. These countries have also added the Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) to HIV/AIDS education.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzette Miller - Director (Chair)

Members:
Angie Carlyle (SD 69 – Qualicum)
John Puddifoot (SD 39 – Vancouver)
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